

To The FCC

Re: 11-65 Merger Request for AT&T and T-Mobile

Dear Commissioners:

My main concern, as a private citizen and wireless customer, is with the exorbitant level of charges levied by both companies to their customers who roam with their handsets internationally. We're already in a market that is dominated by a very few players, all of whom are quite content to levy these unreasonable fees on their customers, supposedly in order to simplify billing. Rather than determine the real roaming costs in different countries and with different providers and then building in a reasonable markup on the costs, all the wireless carriers have chosen to "simplify" roaming by simply charging flat per-minute and per-MB fees on their customers that are high enough to cover most roaming locations. This has naturally become a very lucrative part of the business for these wireless providers.

This is obviously not in the best interests of the customers, and my fear is that as there is further consolidation in the wireless industry, any incentives to try and compete with each other on international roaming charges will disappear. Already, Verizon Wireless, which would be the main competitor to this company, should the merger be allowed to proceed, has cut its "Global Email" data roaming plan which provided reasonably priced international data roaming for frequent travelers. I believe that neither Verizon nor the merged AT&T would give international roamers any kind of break on these charges.

Carriers in other countries with more competition have proved that it is possible to continue to make money with discounted roaming plans. Both Vodafone and Orange in the UK have introduced data roaming plans that are far below anything that our US carriers are willing to offer.

My preference on this merger would be that the merger not be allowed to go through. However, should the commissioners choose to approve this, I hope that you would at least require some regulation or price limitations on roaming charges.

Sincerely,

Siddarth Subramanian

586 Canyon Rim Dr

Austin TX 78746

(512) 347-9730